28th February 1928]

Administration reports regarding Irrigation Cess Fund.

*1614 Q.—SYED TAJUDIN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to call for and lay on the table the administration reports regarding the Irrigation Cess Fund and minor irrigation repairs, with statistics, relating to cultivation, income and expenditure for fasli 1336?

A.—A copy of the report on the working of the Irrigation Cess Fund during the year 1926-27 (fasli 1336) was placed on the table of the House on 5th November 1927, with reference to question No. 1233 asked by the hon. Member. A copy of B.P. No. 34, Press, dated 15th June 1927, containing the report on the expenditure incurred during 1926-27 on the upkeep of minor irrigation works in the Presidency, is attached.[a]

Statistics of expenditure will be found in the two reports referred to above. No capital and revenue accounts are kept for individual minor irrigation works.

Water-rate

The Mettur Project.

*1615 Q.—SYED TAJUDIN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(a) to lay on the table or circulate at least to new members of districts affected by the project all the Cauvery-Mettur Project volumes and Government Orders from 1906 till 1917 and also the report of Mr. A. G. Leach, I.C.S., in the revised financial final estimate and schedule of inclusion fee and water-rates to be charged against the ryots in accordance with recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee;

(b) to obtain from the Board of Revenue a detailed explanation of the basis on which the prospective sale value of waste lands was fixed at Rs. 150 per acre; and

(c) to state if water-rates can be reduced by Government to Rs. 6-4-0, Rs. 4-11-0 and Rs. 3-2-0 per acre for first, second and third crops if the Government ryots agree to pay Government an inclusion fee of Rs. 150 per acre and zamin ryots at Rs. 250 per acre now?

A.—(a) The Cauvery Reservoir Project volumes for the period from 1910 to 1921 are in the Legislative Council Library. For subsequent correspondence about the project, including the financial forecasts, the hon. Member's attention is invited to pages 187 to 224 of Legislative Council Proceedings, Volume XXV, of 1925.

Mr. Leach's report has just been received and is under the consideration of the Government. The question of its publication will be considered in due course.

(b) The area of waste lands is only about 17,000 acres, and as a conservative estimate a rate of Rs. 150 per acre has been adopted for the sale-proceeds. The amount of revenue taken

[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 141–148 infra.